

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 3, wherein said safety slot is in arc-shaped and said driver member has a bottom pivot end pivotally supported in said lighter housing and a top switch end connected to said stopper that normally positions right below said stop post of said pusher button, wherein during said locked position, said locking member is retained to be positioned right below a bottom end of said stop post so as to block said downward movement of said pusher button, wherein when said locking member is switched to said unlocked position by moving said switching member, said locking member is so pivoted until said stopper is positioned aside in such a manner that when said pusher button is depressed downwardly, said stop post slightly pushes aside said stopper of said locking member that diverts said stopper to slide into said guiding slot, so that said pusher button is able to be depressed freely to ignite said utility lighter.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 8, wherein said safety slot is in arc-shaped and said driver member has a bottom pivot end pivotally supported in said lighter housing and a top switch end connected to said stopper that normally positions right below said stop post of said pusher button, wherein during said locked position, said locking member is retained to be positioned right below a bottom end of said stop post so as to block said downward movement of said pusher button, wherein when said locking member is switched to said unlocked position by moving said switching member, said locking member is so pivoted until said stopper is positioned below said guiding end of said guider latch and adapted to fittedly bias against said guider latch in such a manner that when said pusher button is depressed downwardly, said stop post slightly pushes aside said stopper of said locking member that diverts said stopper to slide into said guiding slot, so that said pusher button is able to be depressed freely to ignite said utility lighter.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 3, wherein said driver member of said locking member is a connecting arm transversely and slidably mounted in said lighter housing with respect to said lighter housing, wherein said locking member has an outer end connected to said switching member and an inner end connected to

said stopper until said stopper is longitudinally extended, with respect to said lighter housing, to position right below said stop post for biasing against said stop post in said locking cavity when said locking member is in said locked position, wherein when said locking member is in said locked position, said stopper is positioned right below said stop post in said locking cavity to block said downward movement of said pusher button, wherein by pushing down said switching member, said locking member is driven to said unlocked position that said top end of said stopper of said locking member is pushed to move aside that, when said pusher button is depressed gradually, said slanted surface slightly pushes said locking member aside and said stopper slides into said guiding slot, so that said pusher button is able to be completely depress to ignite said utility lighter.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 8, wherein said driver member of said locking member is a connecting arm transversely and slidably mounted in said lighter housing with respect to said lighter housing, wherein said locking member has an outer end connected to said switching member and an inner end connected to said stopper until said stopper is longitudinally extended, with respect to said lighter housing, to position right below said stop post for biasing against said stop post in said locking cavity when said locking member is in said locked position, wherein when said locking member is in said locked position, said stopper is positioned right below said stop post in said locking cavity to block said downward movement of said pusher button, wherein by pushing down said switching member, said locking member is driven to said unlocked position that said top end of said stopper of said locking member is pushed to move to a position right below said guiding end of said guider latch that, when said pusher button is depressed gradually, said slanted surface slightly pushes said locking member aside and said stopper slides into said guiding slot, so that said pusher button is able to be completely depress to ignite said utility lighter.

Claim 21 (new): A utility lighter, comprising:

a casing having a lighter housing, which has an internal cavity and a pusher cavity therein, and a tubular lighter rod extended from said lighter housing, wherein said lighter housing further has a safety slot formed on a sidewall of said light housing to communicate said internal cavity with an exterior of said lighter housing;

a fuel storage housing disposed in said internal cavity of said lighter housing for storing liquefied gaseous fuel to ignite said utility lighter;

an ignition system which comprises:

a piezoelectric unit supported in said internal cavity for generating piezoelectricity, wherein said piezoelectric unit comprises a movable part and a fixed part;

a gas-emitting nozzle communicated with said fuel storage housing for releasing gaseous fuel;

a gas tube extended from said gas-emitting nozzle to a top end portion of said lighter rod to form an ignition tip therein;

a spark-generating tip extended from said piezoelectric unit to said ignition tip through said lighter rod for generating sparks; and

a pusher button which is supported in said pusher cavity in a movable manner and operatively connected to said piezoelectric unit and said gas-emitting nozzle; and

a safety arrangement which comprises:

a stop post formed on a wall of said pusher button;

a guider latch formed on said wall of said pusher button, wherein said guider latch is spacedly and parallelly positioned to said stop post that defines a guiding slot between said guider latch and said stop post on said wall of said pusher button;

a locking member, which comprises a switching member slidably mounted on said lighter housing along said safety slot and a stopper, having a sliding cavity, extended from said switching member into said lighter housing to normally block up a downward movement of said pusher button, wherein said locking member is movably supported by said lighter housing and adapted for being switched between a locked position and an unlocked position, wherein, in said locked position, said stopper is aligned with said stop post to block said downward movement of said stopper to block any downward compression of said movable part of said piezoelectric unit to prevent generating sparks, wherein, in said unlocked position, said stopper is moved out of

alignment with said stop post at a position that said stop post is aligned with said sliding cavity and said stopper is aligned with said guiding slot to enable said pusher button to be moved downwardly to depress said movable part of said piezoelectric unit and generate sparks at said spark-generating tip to ignite said gaseous fuel emitted from said ignition tip; and

a resilient element mounted in said lighter housing for urging a pushing force to said locking member to normally retain said locking member in said locked position.

Claim 22 (new): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 21, wherein said sliding cavity is wider than a thickness of said stop post, wherein when said locking member is in said locked position, said stop post is positioned right above said stopper of said locking member and thus said downward movement of said pusher button is blocked and locked by said locking member, wherein when said locking member is switched to said unlocked position by operating said switching member until said stopper moves aside from right below said stop post that, during said unlocked position, when said pusher button is depressed downwardly, said pusher button is able to be further depressed that causes said locking member to move backward and said stopper is inserted into said guiding slot, so that said pusher button is free to be depressed to ignite said utility lighter, wherein after each ignition operation, said locking member of said utility lighter automatically returns to said locked position in which said pusher button and said locking member are rebounded back to said locked position by said resilient element and said piezoelectric unit respectively.

Claim 23 (new): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 22, wherein said stopper further has an additional sliding cavity spaced apart from said sliding cavity and having a width wider than a thickness of said guider latch, wherein when said locking member is in said unlocked position, said guider latch is aligned with said additional sliding cavity such that when said pusher button is depressed at said unlocked position for ignition, said stop post and said guider latch are slidably inserted into said two sliding cavities respectively.

Claim 24 (new): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 21, wherein said guider latch has a tapered guiding end having a slanted surface which is inclined toward said

stop post and is arranged to bias against a top side of said stopper at said locked position.

Claim 25 (new): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 22, wherein said guider latch has a tapered guiding end having a slanted surface which is inclined toward said stop post and is arranged to bias against a top side of said stopper at said locked position.

Claim 26 (new): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 23, wherein said guider latch has a tapered guiding end having a slanted surface which is inclined toward said stop post and is arranged to bias against a top side of said stopper at said locked position.

Claim 27 (new): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 21, wherein said stop post and said guider latch are integrally protruded from a bottom portion of said wall of said pusher button.

Claim 28 (new): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 23, wherein said stop post and said guider latch are integrally protruded from a bottom portion of said wall of said pusher button.

Claim 29 (new): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 26, wherein said stop post and said guider latch are integrally protruded from a bottom portion of said wall of said pusher button.

Claim 30 (new): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 21, wherein said locking member further comprises a driver member connecting said switch member positioned outside said lighter housing to said stopper slidably supported inside said lighter housing via said safety slot.

Claim 31 (new): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 23, wherein said locking member further comprises a driver member connecting said switch member positioned outside said lighter housing to said stopper slidably supported inside said lighter housing via said safety slot.

Claim 32 (new): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 26, wherein said locking member further comprises a driver member connecting said switch member positioned

outside said lighter housing to said stopper slidably supported inside said lighter housing via said safety slot.

Claim 33 (new): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 29, wherein said locking member further comprises a driver member connecting said switch member positioned outside said lighter housing to said stopper slidably supported inside said lighter housing via said safety slot.